

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 19  
By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to recognize the artistry of singer/songwriter Warren Zevon and to wish him a happy 50th birthday.

WHEREAS, Warren Zevon is a great American songwriter and performer whose contribution to music is admired and appreciated by his loyal fans and fellow artists; having influenced and inspired a generation of Americans, he is rapidly approaching the half-century mark; and

WHEREAS, the son of Russian immigrants, Warren Zevon depicts the American experience through literate characterization and the meticulous precision of his words to illuminate society's fables and foibles; and

WHEREAS, "Piano Fighter" Warren Zevon's songs are representative of every segment of society, from the U.S. Envoy to the Mideast Philip Habib to boxer Boom Boom Mancini to the junkies in "Charlie's Medicine" and "Carmelita," and reflect the diverse influences upon the artist, which include Igor Stravinsky, the Everly Brothers, Graham Greene, Hunter S. Thompson, Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, and Carl Hiassen; and

WHEREAS, as one who was "born to rock the boat," Warren Zevon's timely and timeless lyrics address issues which few musical artists dare to broach: drug addiction, politics, entropy, environmental pollution, outlaws, junk bond kings, criminals, mercenaries, sadomasochism and werewolves; and

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WHEREAS, like all good morality plays, wordsmith Warren Zevon's stories are peopled by those who dwell in the underbelly and on the fringes of society, but whose plight is representative of the human experience; and

WHEREAS, aficionados of Warren Zevon's poetry recognize that his perceived cynicism and healthy skepticism belie a great thirst for knowledge and a search for truth; and

WHEREAS, he is also a great balladeer whose songs are graced by unsentimental beauty and emotional honesty, including "The French Inhaler," "Suzie Lightning," "Hasten Down The Wind," "Frozen Notes," "Reconsider Me," and "Searching for a Heart," among his numerous classics; and

WHEREAS, Warren Zevon's lyrics are perfectly accompanied by his stellar musical talents: guitar, piano, synthesizer and the rich and resonant tones of his singing, which prove him to be a complete and consummate musical artist; and

WHEREAS, like his beloved trout-fishing, Warren Zevon's songs are catch and release, a few perfect and profound moments in time which capture a story or a feeling; and

WHEREAS, even as Warren Zevon continues his prolific musical production, which has expanded to include movie and television scores, and a symphonette, his standards are finding new life on both the rock and country charts as the result of covers by new artists; and

WHEREAS, in one hundred years, those wishing to open a social time capsule of American life in the last three decades of the 20th Century need only listen to the picaresque songs of Warren Zevon; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate on the auspicious occasion of an artist's fiftieth birthday that his many contributions be enumerated and extolled; and

WHEREAS, it is entirely fitting that such a stellar artist be recognized and praised by this body: now, therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, That we extend to Warren Zevon our most heartfelt wishes for a Happy Birthday on January 24, with best wishes for the future, and most especially from his friend, Senator Steve Cohen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the members of the General Assembly extend our appreciation for the artistry and musical contributions of Warren Zevon, and we hope that he will continue to “let nothing come between” him and his great talent, for his mighty contributions already assure that he will not have “Bad Karma.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Mr. Zevon, with this last resolving clause deleted.